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Professional Concentration in GIS now at UC Davis Extension

Davis, Calif.— UC Davis Extension now offers a Professional Concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to meet the growing demand for GIS technology among land use and environmental planners, policy makers and natural resource managers. The first course for the winter quarter, *Python Programming for GIS*, begins Jan. 14.

"We have designed our PC for the GIS beginner, as well as for more experienced users who want to sharpen existing skills or expand their skill base," said Julia Lave Johnston, UC Davis Extension's Director for Land Use and Natural Resources. "While our program uses land use planning and natural resources case studies, the courses will benefit a student from any background."

The new professional concentration focuses on how to analyze and model the built and natural environments in order to inform policy and policy decisions. Individual courses explore GIS topics in depth, including database design, programming, cartographic design and data analysis.

"GIS is important for an increasing range of professions," said Nick Santos, programmer with the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. "For policy analysts, environmental scientists, urban and regional planners, and similar professions, it's a must. Without GIS abilities, an employee may be able to procure or take data, but they really can't analyze it in any contemporary way."

The professional concentration is beneficial for land use, environmental, transportation and healthcare planners, as well as resource managers, scientists and researchers, and policy and decision makers.

"We live in an increasingly complex world where one action has wide impacts," Johnston explained. "GIS provides a tool to process, cross-reference and query the large amounts of highly technical information and data available to us. It is also invaluable for communicating data."

Johnston added that GIS is indispensable for research, policy development and implementation since it allows for large quantities of data to be collected, analyzed and displayed in an easy to understand visual format.

A full listing of courses for the Professional Concentration in GIS, including the following courses, can be found on the website at extension.ucdavis.edu/landuse.

GIS for Watershed Analysis: Intermediate

- Dec. 17-18: Tues.-Wed., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- UC Davis: Plant and Environmental Sciences, California Ave.
- \$450 (\$500 if postmarked after 12/03/2013). Enroll in section 133NAT416.

GIS for Watershed Analysis: Advanced

- Dec. 19-20: Thurs.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- UC Davis: Plant and Environmental Sciences, California Ave.
- \$450 (\$500 if postmarked after 12/03/2013). Enroll in section 133NAT417.

NEW! Python Programming for GIS

- Jan. 14-Feb. 4: Tues., 6-9 p.m.
- UC Davis: Plant and Environmental Sciences, California Ave.
- \$450 (\$500 if postmarked after 12/31/2013). Enroll in section 133NAT431.

Understanding GIS Modeling for Sustainable Communities

- Jan. 24: Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Sacramento: Sutter Square Galleria, 2901 K St.
- \$300 (\$330 if postmarked after 01/10/2014). Enroll in section 133NAT427.

For more information or to enroll, call (800) 752-0881, email extension@ucdavis.edu or visit the website.

<http://extension.ucdavis.edu/landuse>

UC Davis Extension, the continuing and professional education division of UC Davis, has been an internationally recognized leader in educational outreach for individuals, organizations and communities for more than 50 years. With more than 50,000 annual enrollments in classroom and online university-level courses, UC Davis Extension serves lifelong learners in the growing Sacramento region, all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

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